

June 2008 A Public Service of Your Bluemont Civic Association

June 25 Annual Meeting

IT'S VOTING TIME!

Bluemont Civic Association's Annual Meeting will be held at Arlington Traditional School (ATS) on June 25, 7:30 pm, at which time members will elect officers and representatives for 2008–2009.

The Nominating Committee has forwarded the following slate of nominees for the 2008–2009 election: Judah dal Cais, President; Wendy Dean, First Vice President; Talmadge Williams, Second Vice President; Mary Thorne, Secretary; Judy Collins, Treasurer; Carl Drummond, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) Representative. The following members have been nominated as Civic Federation Delegates: Kate Mesches, Talmadge Williams, Ed Fendley, and Terry Serie. The nominees for Civic Federation Alternates are Ellen Armbruster, Judah dal Cais, and Sam Ferro.

Nominations also may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting. **Please note that only members in good standing may vote in this election. If you have not paid dues for 2008, please bring \$23 (check or cash) to the meeting, which will update your membership through December 2009.** ■

Other Meeting Agenda Items

The Townes of Ballston homeowners' association has asked BCA to support a traffic-calming project on N. Tazewell St., which the membership will discuss. At the May meeting, the membership voted unanimously to oppose the County's proposal to change the Zoning Ordinance to legalize accessory dwellings (ADs). Because the vote had not been previously announced, there will be an opportunity for discussion followed by a final membership vote on June 25. ■



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JOIN US!

NEXT GENERAL MEETING 6/25/08

- Officer Elections
- Traffic Calming & A.D. Votes
- Your Input & Concerns

Left: Ed Fendley, BCA's "clapper keeper," leads the The Constitution Bell ringing on Memorial Day.

www.bluemontcivic.org

AHC/Peck-Staples SPRC Meeting

On June 9, AHC presented its amendment to the Peck/Staples site plan (primarily for final approval of the new building's architecture) to the Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC).

BCA member Terry Serie reported that AHC was asked numerous questions and was also asked to provide more details:

- Materials/color/appearance of the rooftop enclosure surrounding the compressors (current proposal is a gray stucco material on five-foot-high panels). What other options are available?
- Appearance of the rooftop from higher buildings—Can AHC cover the 90-plus compressors?
- Will kitchens, bathrooms, and washers and dryers vent to the roof or to the sides of the buildings? How will ventilation affect architecture and appearance?
- What type of lighting will be used for the entryways of individual units fronting on N. Wakefield St. and Wilson Blvd.? Where will the fixtures be ➡3



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Civic Federation Representatives

Delegates: Kate Mesches, Talmadge Williams, Ed Fendley, Terry Serie. Alternates: Adrienne Pilot, Ellen Armbruster, Judah dal Cais, Sam Ferro

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Emergency Preparedness Liaison

open — volunteer needed

BCA MEETINGS AT A GLANCE...

LAST GENERAL MEETING 5/28/08

Arlington Traditional School (ATS) Principal Holly Hawthorne, who grew up in Bluemont, briefly described her background. She held positions as a teacher, principal and vice principal prior to coming to ATS as principal 15 years ago. The school has received many awards, including, most recently, the Governor's Award for Academic Excellence in 2008.

Hawthorne also described the Arlington Academy of Hope, a Ugandan primary school started by an Arlington couple (originally from Uganda). ATS parents and students have provided fundraising support, and ATS teachers and Hawthorne herself have traveled to Uganda to provide pedagogical support. Consequently, the majority of school's seventh-graders have passed standardized tests, which allows them to continue on to secondary school.

BCA members asked Hawthorne how are children chosen to attend ATS. She replied that the current system is a double-blind lottery. Preference is given to siblings of children who already have been admitted to ATS and to at-risk students. When asked how most ATS students travel to school, Hawthorne said she did not know the answer but thought that most are bussed to ATS.

Accessory Dwelling Units

A motion was made and seconded for BCA to take a position against the Zoning Ordinance change to permit accessory dwelling (AD) units. Members raised three main concerns. First, there would be increased pressure on street parking, which is already in short supply. Second, given that many of these units exist illegally already, there would be little incentive for owners to go through the permit process. And last, given the ineffectiveness of code enforcement, to date, it seems unlikely that code enforcement personnel would be effective in monitoring the new accessory dwellings. The motion against permitting AD units carried unanimously. Members are encouraged to send their comments to the County Board (CountyBoard@arlingtonva.us) prior to the Board's vote on the matter at its July meeting. ■

Summer Meeting Schedule

Because so many members take vacations during the summer, there are no BCA general membership meetings held in July or August. (The next BCA general membership meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 24, 2008.) The BCA Executive Board continues to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm (July 8, August 12 and September 9). All members are welcome to attend Executive Board meetings, and we especially encourage newcomers to join us. The site of this summer's executive meetings is still to be determined. Contact Judah at jdalcais@verizon.net or check BCA's Website (www.bluemontcivic.org) to obtain current meeting location information.

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BCA's September newsletter reaches over 2,000 households, and so can your product or service! Find out more today by contacting Judah dal Cais at jdalcais@verizon.net.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING 6/25/08 – 7:30pm ATS

Officer elections and more. See page 1.

Identifying New NC Projects

BCA needs to identify new projects to add to its Neighborhood Conservation (NC) funding queue. If you need curb, gutter, sidewalk or lighting improvements on your block, you may be able to obtain the necessary funds through BCA and NC. First, you must select a block captain to coordinate the paperwork and shepherd your project through the process.

Last year at the County's request, BCA developed a list of infrastructure improvements (including park upgrades and repairs) that are needed in Bluemont. Whereas the Neighborhood Infrastructure Plan (NIP) list does not include all potential improvements, it may help residents identify and plan for capital improvements they would like to accomplish. Items on the list appear in no particular order, and to be implemented, the improvements must go through the normal NC approval and funding process. For details, see BCA's NIP list at www.bluemontcivic.org. Block captains should contact Carl Drummond CarlID10@aol.com for instructions on how to proceed.

Constitution Bell To Ring on July 4

To celebrate Independence Day, BCA will ring the Constitution Bell at noon on July 4. The Constitution Bell is located at the northwest corner of N. George Mason Dr. and Wilson Blvd.

Bicycle Trail Connection Update

The potential N. Harrison St. trail spur, dubbed the "Revolutionary War Connector Trail" by those who cleared brush on May 10, was not originally included as part of the County's Master Transportation Plan (MTP). Terry Serie reported via e-mail that he had reminded staff about this project (to connect Harrison St. to the Custis Trail), and staff has reported that it would be included in the MTP's list of potential bicycle-element projects. Adding the project to the MTP does not, however, guarantee funding for the project. ■



Summertime Fun!

Family Film Screening Matinee: *Ratatouille*

July 6 at 2:00 pm
The Shirlington Branch Library (4200 S. Campbell Ave.) will present this family-oriented film on Sunday, July 6. Admission is FREE! Call 703-228-6545 for details.

Ballston Farmer's Market

Every Friday, 11 am-3 pm
Each Friday, a farmer's mar- ➔4

Register for Kindergarten Now

Is your child five years old or will he/she turn five before September 30, 2008? If so, you will need to register your child now for kindergarten. Call 703-228-6005 or 703-228-7660 to help identify your school and ask for a registration packet.

Complete the forms in the packet and have your child's doctor complete the health form. You also will need to show proof of residency and your child's birth certificate. Return all information in person to your child's school office. The schools need this information now in order to make adequate plans for the fall. ■

► SPRC Meeting

FROM P.1

located? Will the lighting be automatic?

■ Several other architectural features were discussed, including the use of window blanks versus actual windows on 9th Street N. and on the east side as well as the appearance of the recessed doorways on N. Wakefield St. and Wilson Blvd.

■ Will there be an option for automated front doors to assist physically challenged residents?
■ Will some units (including bathrooms) be fully wheelchair accessible?

At the conclusion of the meeting, it "appeared" that the SPRC Chair would schedule another meeting to finish reviewing the AHC changes on Monday, June 23. The Peck buildings are now being demolished. Staples closed its doors on June 1, and a new, smaller Staples has opened on N. Oakland St. ■

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Next General Meeting-ATS 6/25

Ring the Constitution Bell 7/4

Ballston Art Market 7/12

Exec. Board Meeting 7/8

Ballston Art Market 8/9

BCA General Meeting-ATS 9/24



HAPPY JULY 4 FROM BCA

► Summertime Fun

FROM P.3

ket is held at Welburn Square (on N. Stuart St. between Wilson Blvd. and N. Fairfax Dr.). Admission is FREE!

Ballston Arts & Crafts Market

Every Second Saturday, 10 am–4 pm

Visit Welburn Square to purchase original handmade items on the second Saturday of each month through October. Admission is FREE!

“Wall of Beer” Beer & Wine Tasting

First Friday of Each Month, 6 to 8 pm

Westover Market (5863 N. Washington Blvd.) sponsors a beer and wine tasting for adults on the first Friday of each month. Admission is FREE! ■



Bluemont Civic Association

PO Box 5134

Arlington VA 22205

Senior Tax Rebate Assistance

Volunteers will be available to help senior adults complete filing for their economic stimulus tax rebates on June 30, 2008, 10:00 am, at the Langston-Brown Community Center, 2121 N. Culpepper St. Please call Eva Mayor for an appointment at 703-228-5321. ■

Behind the Scenes

The efforts of BCA volunteers may or may not always be highly visible, but they are extremely beneficial to the neighborhood. After many years of service (most recently serving as a Civic Federation alternate representative), member Adrienne Pilot is “retiring” in order to concentrate on work and other commitments. We thank Adrienne for her dedication, and we also are very grateful for the long-serving officers, representatives, committee chairs and many others who work on our behalf. ■